

Norfolk Reentry Council Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2015

Workforce Development Center

9:00 a.m.

Welcome:

Madonna Flores extended greetings to members and guests present. Members and guest introduced themselves.

Planning Committee:

Madonna Flores mentioned the upcoming Employment & Training Town Hall Meeting 5/19/15.

Presentation:

Dennis O'Hara gave & Troy Woodbury gave an overview of RAPIDGate. RAPIDGate credentials are valid for 3 years or a 1 day pass (Navy) can be issued. There is an employee registration and company enrollment (government representative). Pricing is annually or 90 days plus a \$40 credential management fee + applicable taxes and surcharges. Questions were answered about the program and information was distributed to members and guest present.

Program Updates:

- **Child Support Enforcement** - Joy Sullivan gave an update on Norfolk Family Engagement Program.
- **DHS Programs** - Madonna Flores gave an update on programs offered through NDHS. SNAPET program offers employment & training services for the returning citizens and the two workers are Katrina Toussant & Sheila London. Three new mentors have been established within their program, and a mentor training will hopefully be scheduled for July. Peer Support Groups at WDC on Tuesdays; W.E.L.L (Women) 5 p.m.-6 p.m. & Safe Haven (Co-ed) 6.p.m.-7 p.m. All returning citizens are welcomed to attend.

Institutional Updates:

- **Greensville** - Principal Bryan Phillips stated there were major upgrades to their computer center.
- **Indian Creek** - Quiten Newborn mentioned their CADRE program. Allan Dorrough stated their next Resource Fair is 6/5/15. He has contacted 45 agencies.
- **St. Brides** - Joshua Coleman stated they will have a Resource Fair on 6/17/15.
- **Sussex I & II** – Principal Timothy Donley provided an update about GED testing. Charles Davis stated the next Resource Fair is 6/18/15, however the date may change due to it appearing it may conflict with other resource fair dates.
- **VA DOC** - Carolyn Lecroy stated that Marion Curry will conduct a statewide volunteer training for Tidewater/Richmond area at Indian Creek Correctional Center in June 2015. Attendees will be able to obtain a VADOC ID card which will minimize the need for individual background checks for each DOC facility. For more information, contact Marion Curry at marion.curry@vadoc.virginia.gov

P & P:

- **Reentry Docket** - Trish Miller provided an update about the number of participants in Mental Health Court, Veteran's Court, Reentry Court and Drug Court. Ebony Sessoms provided an update about the most recent Thinking for a Change graduation.
- **Veterans** - Hosey Burgess provided an update about Wounded Warrior Program. VEC veteran contact is David Rineland.
- **Va. Organizing** – Debra Grant advised that there would be a Voter Registration Drive sponsored by Portsmouth NAACP on 5/23/15 @ Mt. Sinai church 900 Portsmouth Blvd. and information will be distributed about Restoration of Voter Rights. There will be a Returning Citizens Job Fair in Portsmouth in Nov. 2015.
- **UP Center Books** - The next Fatherhood class will start on 5/18/15. They will be re-applying for grant issued by Department of Health & Human Services.
- **Stanhope House** - Jan House stated their facility has some housing openings for females with misdemeanor/felony charges.

Workgroups:

- **Employment**- Mike Paris advised that they are having an Employment & Training Town Hall Meeting on 5/19/15 @ WDC 10 a.m. -1 p.m. The 2nd Hampton Roads Equal Opportunity Job Fair will be held on 7/23/15 @ WDC 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **Faith Based and Community Initiatives** - Madonna Flores advised that they had a meeting on 4/27/15. They will be working on updating a resource list as an outreach service and working towards helping to establish mentor programs throughout the community. The next meeting is 5/18/15 or the 3rd Monday of each month.
- **Juvenile Reentry** – Madonna Flores advised that a convener is needed for this committee; interested persons should speak with Ms. Flores after the council meeting.

The next Reentry Council meeting is Friday 7/17/15 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Sheila London